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TAEG REPORT NO. 48 EVALUATION OF MICROFICHE

AS AN INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIUM
IN A TECHNICAL TRAINING ENVIRONMENT

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TRAINING ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION GROUP ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32813

EVALUATION OF MICROFICHE AS AN INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIUM IN A TECHNICAL TRAINING ENVIRONMENT

William A. Rizzo

July 1977

Sponsored by

Chief of Naval Education and Training

and the

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Basic Electricity and Electronics (BE&E) Training Individualized Instruction	Training Media
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Programmed Instruction 20 ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side If necessary and identify by block number)	
This report concludes the second phase of a	four-phase study concouning
the application of the microfiche medium for onbo	
compared the efficiency of using microfiche versu	
for training of Basic Electricity and Electronics	(BE&E). Thirty
experimental trainees completed the BE&E curricul	
republished as microfiche. The school performand compared to a control group (matched by ASVAB sco	
compared to a control group (matched by ASVAB SCC	res, using existing modules

printed by offset copy. Overall, there was no significant difference in performance between the two groups. For both groups, performance was directly related to aptitude. However, low aptitude trainees using microfiche required significantly more time to complete the curriculum than the corresponding control sub-group. The tabulation of posttraining interview responses indicated no notable user complaints regarding the use of microfiche. Costs associated with using microfiche versus paper copy for training were compared under existing and hypothetical configurations. The two major factors affecting cost were time to complete training and the consumption rate of instructional materials.

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SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

The increase of military manpower costs in recent years, combined with the fact that approximately half of the enlisted personnel serve for only one tour, has resulted in renewed focus on economizing the Navy's first tour training costs. This condition has stimulated studies to examine the feasibility of shifting a portion of resident, or schoolhouse, training to the onboard environment.

The anticipated expansion of onboard training has necessitated an evaluation of traditional and alternative instructional delivery systems in terms of the unique requirements of the onboard environment. One of the objectives of the David W. Taylor Naval Ship Research and Development Center (NSRDC) Naval Technical Information Presentation Program (NTIPP) is to examine prospective media which may be optimally suited for onboard use. The Training Analysis and Evaluation Group (TAEG), with NTIPP support, is assessing the technical feasibility, economic efficiency, and user acceptance of candidate information delivery systems for onboard training.

A critical requirement in the shipboard environment is space economy. This has resulted in efforts to reduce the quantity of paper documentation needed in support of operations and maintenance. Micrographics have emerged as a viable solution to this data storage problem. In the form of microfiche, the physical volume of paper documentation can be reduced dramatically.

If the volume of instructional materials destined for shipboard use is to increase, commensurate miniaturization of these materials seems inevitable. To assess the feasibility of using microfiche for onboard training, the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) tasked TAEG to compare the use of microfiche with traditional instructional media.

A series of studies are concerned with this objective. The initial effort (TAEG Report No. 35) evaluated human factors considerations in selecting and/or designing microfiche readers for training. A second study (TAEG Technical Memorandum 77-2) compared the use of sound/fiche audio/visual programs with traditional sound/slide programs. The present study examines the effects on learning of microfiche versus paper copy. Another study, currently underway, is evaluating the effectiveness of training modules designed specifically for the microfiche medium and techniques for the efficient production of microfiche-based instructional materials. It is envisaged that this evaluation will be conducted in both classroom and onboard environments. Finally, a set of studies will be conducted concerning human factors, learning effects, and environmental testing using a hand-held, battery-powered microfiche reader, the Personalized Portable Micromedia Display System (PPMDS), which is currently under development at NSRDC.

This total TAEG project will provide NSRDC and CNET with a comprehensive evaluation of microfiche-related hardware and software for potential use in onboard as well as schoolhouse training.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of using microfiche as the principal instructional medium in a Navy technical training environment. The use of microfiche versus traditional paper copy was compared in terms of:

- 1. the effects of medium on time to complete a course of instruction and examination error rate
 - 2. the effects of medium on training as a function of trainee aptitude
 - 3. trainee attitudes concerning the use of microfiche
 - 4. economic considerations of alternative media.

SECTION II

METHOD

STUDY ENVIRONMENT

The Basic Electricity and Electronics (BE&E) School, Service School Command, Orlando, Florida, served as the study testbed. The BE&E School provides students with the prerequisite training for attendance at more advanced and specialized technical schools. The school is comprised of three learning complexes which accommodate approximately 90 trainees each. The learning complexes are divided into learning centers of approximately 18 trainees. Each learning center has a supervisor who oversees the progress of training, which is individualized and self-paced. In addition to assisting students with their training, the learning center supervisor serves as an interface with the automated records keeping system known as Computerized Managed Instruction (CMI). Virtually all school-related activities of each trainee are recorded by inputs from the learning center supervisor.

Most trainees complete 14 "modules" of instruction covering the fundamentals of electricity and electronics. Appendix A contains this curriculum outline. Each trainee takes 18 module tests, and midpoint and final comprehensive examinations, for a total of 20 segments of instruction. All tests must be passed to a 100 percent criterion. Remedial training and testing are provided until the mastery criterion is reached. Although the training modules are printed on offset copy, all testing is done using microfiche.

SUBJECTS

Thirty male trainees at the BE&E School completed the 14-module curriculum using training materials republished as microfiche. They ranged in age from 18 to 23 (median = 20) and were all recent graduates of recruit training. Subjects were selected from within three mental aptitude groups. For the purposes of this study, mental aptitude was defined in terms of the combined word knowledge (WK) and arithmetic reasoning (AR) scales of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). An examination of recent historical data on 1,000 BE&E trainees revealed that the mean WK + AR score for this group was 115.7 with a standard deviation of 9.35. Based on this distribution, three groups of ten trainees were established using the following aptitude criteria:

High - WK + AR > 125 Medium - WK + AR = 111-121 Low - WK + AR < 107

There was a between group separation of approximately .5 σ to increase the distinction between aptitude categories.

A control group of 30 subjects was selected from the pool of graduates of the BE&E School, Orlando, during the period of the study (September 1976 to March 1977). The experimental and control groups were matched on the basis of combined WK + AR scores. Since the controls were selected at the completion of the study, they had no knowledge of their role in generating experimental data.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The BE&E modules are published as 14 booklets using offset printing. The lessons in each module are divided into three sections: lesson narrative, programmed instruction, and summary. In addition to the modules, "enrichment materials" are available for trainee use. These materials are in the form of additional readings and sound/slide programs. Trainees have the option of using any or all of the instructional materials; however, experience has shown that the enrichment materials are rarely used.

The 14 BE&E modules were republished on negative image microfiche, in the 98 frame (7 rows X 14 columns) 1/24 X format. All but one of the modules were more than 98 pages, requiring more than one fiche per module, resulting in a total of 30 fiche. The fiche were produced so that no lesson appeared on more than one fiche, eliminating the requirement to change fiche in mid-lesson.

The content of the modules and fiche was identical with one exception—module page numbers were replaced with fiche alphanumeric frame designators corresponding to the 98 image format. In the programmed instruction sections, branching directions were edited to include the appropriate alphanumeric frame designators.

EQUIPMENT

All trainees (experimental and control) studied in locally-fabricated learning carrels. The carrels used by the experimental group were equipped with Realist/Vantage I microfiche readers with a 24 X lens. Experimental trainees were also issued a Realist/Vantage I reader for their individual use in the dormitory.

PROCEDURE

Performance data on trainees using microfiche were gathered over a 7 month period from September 1976 to March 1977. There were from six to eight subjects using microfiche at any given time, while the remainder of the trainees in the learning center used traditional paper copy materials. As subjects graduated, they were replaced until the desired total of 30 was reached. The learning center supervisor was instructed to give no special attention to the experimental trainees.

Subjects were given approximately one-half hour of briefing on the purpose of the study, use of the microfiche reader, and the format of the microfiche training modules. All subjects received the same taped briefing (appendix B) and practice fiche exercises under the supervision of the experimenter. They were advised that dormitory study was totally discretionary and that the extra reader was assigned so as not to deny that option.

Upon completion of the curriculum, subjects were given a structured interview by the experimenter to solicit responses regarding operational factors, microfiche training modules, physical comfort, study habits, attitudes, and recommendations. The format for this interview is in appendix C.

DESIGN

Thirty experimental and thirty control subjects were matched on the basis of ASVAB scores representing high, medium, and low aptitude levels. The effects of medium (microfiche versus paper), aptitude (high, medium, and low), and segment of instruction (1 - 20) on the dependent variable, time to criterion, were analyzed by a 2 X 3 X 20 factorial design. The effects of medium (microfiche versus paper) and aptitude (high, medium, and low) on a second dependent variable, error rate, were analyzed by a 2 X 3 factorial design. Error rate was defined as the combined number of errors on the midpoint and final comprehensive tests.

SECTION III

RESULTS

Results in this section are presented in terms of time to criterion, errors, and interview responses, respectively.

TIME TO CRITERION--MICROFICHE VERSUS PAPER COPY

Mean times to complete the entire BE&E curriculum using microfiche and paper copy are presented by aptitude category in table 1.

TABLE 1. MEAN TIME TO COMPLETE BE&E CURRICULUM (HOURS)

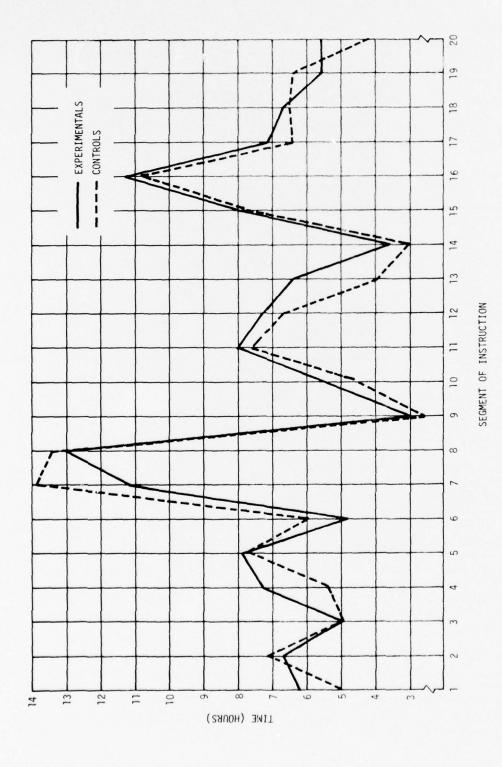
			APTI	TUDE		
	HI	GH	MED	IUM	LO	W
×	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
MICROFICHE	113.45	23.48	125.86	38.85	182.69	42.68
PAPER COPY	112.45	27.48	145.79	26.19	142.60	46.41

The effects of segment of instruction, aptitude, and medium on time to criterion were examined by a three-way analysis of variance. The analysis revealed a significant (p < .01) effect of aptitude. In general, the lower the aptitude, the longer the time required to complete the curriculum.

The performance of the low and medium aptitude groups using paper copy was essentially equivalent. The limited ability of aptitude scores to predict individual performance may account for this.

The overall effect of medium on performance was not significant at the .05 level; however, a significant (p < .02) Interaction (Medium X Aptitude) was found. A Neuman-Keuls (Winer, 1962) analysis indicated that under the condition of low aptitude, trainees using microfiche required a significantly greater amount of time to complete the curriculum. It would appear from table 1 that trainees using microfiche performed better than the control group under the medium aptitude condition; however, this difference was not significant at the .05 level.

A significant (p < .01) effect of segment of instruction (figure 1) was found, indicating that some segments of instruction were more difficult (i.e., required more time) than others. This is considered to be common knowledge and is an inherent characteristic of the curriculum. Three Interactions—Medium X Segment, Aptitude X Segment, and Medium X Aptitude X Segment—were not significant at the .05 level.



EXAMINATION ERRORS--MICROFICHE VERSUS PAPER COPY

The effects of aptitude and medium on comprehensive examination errors (figure 2) were examined by a two-way analysis of variance. This analysis considered the combined errors on the midpoint (increment #9) and final (increment #20) examinations. A significant (p < .01) effect of aptitude indicated that higher aptitude trainees made fewer errors than lower aptitude trainees. The effect of medium and the Interaction (Aptitude X Medium) were not significant at the .05 level.

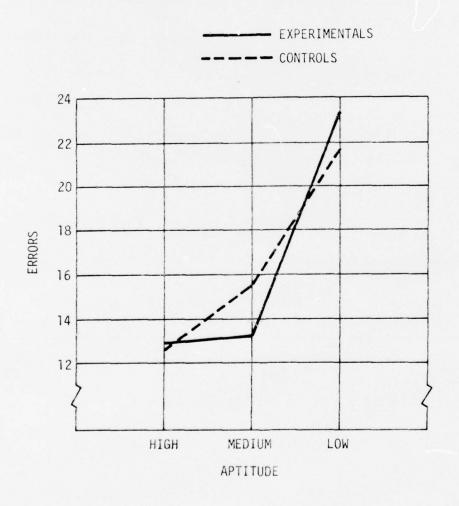


Figure 2. Mean Combined Errors on Comprehensive Examinations

INTERVIEW RESPONSES

At the conclusion of training, each microfiche trainee was interviewed by the experimenter. The structure and content of the interview can be found in appendix C. Frequency of response to interview questions is presented in table 2, by aptitude group. In general, interview responses were positive, in favor of the microfiche medium. The data in table 2 are presented for information, only. No statistical analysis was performed on individual interview items due to the similarity of responses and the small number (10) in each group. Section IV contains a summary of trainee comments and recommendations.

TABLE 2. INTERVIEW RESPONSE FREQUENCIES

NO.	OPERATIONAL FACTORS		Н	М	L
1.	Did you have any problems in selecting the correct microfiche module from the storage folder?	Yes No	0 10	0 10	0
2.	Did you have any problems in loading or unloading microfiche?	Yes No	0 10	0 10	0 10
3.	Did you have any problems locating the correct microfiche pages using the reader index?	Yes No	0	1 9	0
4.	Did you have any problems in focusing the microfiche reader lens?	Yes No	0 10	0	0
5.	Did you experience any microfiche reader equipment failures?	Yes No	3 7	3 7	2 8
	MICROFICHE TRAINING MODULES				
6.	Was the legibility of the microfiche text adequate?	Yes No	9	10	10
7.	Was the legibility of the microfiche illustrations adequate?	Yes No	9	8	10
8.	Have you ever used programmed instruction before?	Yes No	2 8	2 8	2 8
9.	How often did you use the narrative sections of the modules?	Never Seldom Occasionall Frequently Always	0 0 y 0 0	0 0 0 3 7	0 0 0 0

TABLE 2. INTERVIEW RESPONSE FREQUENCIES (continued)

NO.	MICROFICHE TRAINING MODULES (continued)	Н	_ M	L
10.	How often did you use the programmed	Never	2	1	0
10.	instruction section of the modules?	Seldom	3	2	1
	mstruction section of the modules:			3	
		Occasionally	0		4
		Frequently	4	3	2
		Always	1	1	3
11.	How often did you use the summary	Never	0	0	1
	sections of the modules?	Seldom	4	0	3
	Sections of the moderns.	Occasionally	1	2	2
		Frequently	3	2	2
			2	2	2
		Always	2	6	2
12.	How often did you use the enrichment	Never	0	0	0
	materials for the modules?	Seldom	10	8	6
		Occasionally	0	2	1
		Frequently	0	0	3
		Always	0	0	0
		Always	U	U	U
13.	List the sequence in which you typically	NPSE	3	6	5
	used the narrative, programmed	NSPE	5	3	1
	instruction, summary, and enrichment	NEPS	0	0	i
	materials.	NPES	0	0	3
		NSE	2	1	0
	PHYSICAL COMFORT				
14	Have much agastrain did you appariance	More	0	1	2
14.	How much eyestrain did you experience		0		3
	using microfiche compared to printed	Less	4	4	3
	paper?	Same	6	5	4
15.	How much body fatigue did you	More	1	2	1
	experience using microfiche?	Less	6	5	3
		Same	3	3	6
		Jame	9	3	
16.	Did you experience any problems	Yes	0	0	1
	shifting your attention from the	No	10	10	9
	microfiche reader to equipment or answer sheets?				
17.	Were there any more distractions using	Yes	4	2	3
	microfiche compared to printed paper?	No	6	8	7
	micro rene compared to printed paper.		O	0	,

TABLE 2. INTERVIEW RESPONSE FREQUENCIES (continued)

NO.	STUDY HABITS		Н	М	L
18.	Were you able to study just as long at one sitting using microfiche compared to books?	Yes No	9	9	9
19.	Would you have studied differently using the printed modules?	Yes No	7	7	7 3
20.	Were there any inconveniences using microfiche that you would not have experienced using the printed modules?	Yes No	3 7	9	3 7
	ATTITUDES				
21.	Have you used any kind of microfilm before?	Yes No	7	2	3 7
22.	What was your attitude toward using microfiche when you began the BE&E course?	Positive Negative No Opinion	8 1 1		6 1 3
23.	Did your attitude toward using microfiche change after you had worked with it for awhile?	More Positive More Negative No change		2 2 6	3 2 5
24.	Would you prefer to use microfiche or books in a similar course using programmed instruction?	Microfiche Books No Preference	7 2 1	6 2 2	5 3 2
	RECOMMENDATIONS				
25.	What recommendations would you make for improving programmed instruction on microfiche?	Made Recom. Made No Recom.	4 6	4 6	5 5
	OTHER COMMENTS		,		
26.	Is there anything else you would like to comment on that I haven't asked you about?	Made Comments Made No Comments	5	4 6	1 9

To compare the overall attitudes of the three aptitude categories, an analysis of variance was performed on the number of positive responses by the three groups to questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, and the net positive value of 22/23. For this analysis, a positive response was defined as one which reflected favorably on the microfiche medium with regard to operational factors, training modules, physical comfort, study habits, and attitudes. Differences in numbers of positive responses (table 3) across aptitude categories were not statistically significant.

TABLE 3. MEAN POSITIVE RESPONSES TO INTERVIEW OUESTIONS

HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
12.3	11.4	11.6

SECTION IV

DISCUSSION

PERFORMANCE

The experimental results suggest that, overall, there were no differences in school performance between subjects trained with microfiche and those trained with traditional paper copy. However, the 28 percent performance differential between those media for low aptitude trainees may be cause for concern. For reasons not clearly evident from the data, the microfiche trainees in this category required substantially more time to complete the curriculum.

This may be explained in terms of differential adaptability. It is common to find the characteristic of adaptability in definitions of intelligence. For example, intelligence has been defined as, "...general mental ability, especially the ability to think rationally, use memory and knowledge, and adapt to new situations" (Psychology '73-'74, 1973). Given that the ASVAB scores used as predictor variables in this study are a form of intelligence measure, it is apparent from scores on both dependent variables (time and errors) that intelligence is related to performance in BE&E training; i.e., the higher the ASVAB scores, the lower the number of errors and time to criterion. The analysis of variance results were further supported by the correlational relationships between the ASVAB scores and performance. The Pearson Product Moment Correlations between ASVAB scores and performance criteria are presented in table 4.

TABLE 4. CORRELATION OF ASVAB SCORES WITH TIME AND ERRORS

	MICROFICHE	PAPER COPY
TIME TO CRITERION	6513	3411
ERRORS	5463	3899

The differential performance of the experimental and control groups may be attributed to the adaptability component of intelligence. That is, when faced with a new learning situation, the low ASVAB/microfiche trainees experienced difficulty in adapting. This inability to adapt appears to be a subtle, yet constant effect based on two observations: (1) the subjects in question did not report such difficulty in the posttraining interview and (2) differences in performance scores (between treatment groups) did not vary systematically; i.e., differences did not diminish as training progressed.

Some support for these results is found in previous research dealing with microfiche. Kottenstette (1969) found in a reading experiment, "...no fundamental physical or psychological barriers to the utilization of microforms in the communication of information that the student customarily encounters in hardcopy." The Kottenstette study used college students as subjects, comparable in academic aptitude to the high and, perhaps, medium groups in the BE&E study. Similar results indicating no differences between microfiche and hardcopy have been reported by Gaddy (1971) and Grausnick (1971).

Baldwin and Bailey (1971) investigated the effects of microfiche versus paper copy using performance scores on tests of 12 cognitive skills. Using Air Force trainees as subjects, they found that three skills were performed more effectively using paper copy--graph interpretation, figure identification, and symbol translation. These kinds of tasks are an integral part of BE&E training.

In a replication of this study, Grausnick and Kottenstette (1971) compared Air Force trainees divided into high, medium, and low intelligence groups. Their results reflected the results of the Baldwin and Bailey study with superior performance on two additional tasks using paper copy—length estimation and table lookup. It was found that the lower intelligence group was adversely affected by the microfiche mode of presentation. The lower intelligence subjects using paper copy performed better than microfiche subjects on one additional task—a narrative reading exercise. These authors concluded that, "...these differences suggest a possible limitation for training applications for students in lower intelligence groups using microfiche equipment." The importance of this finding is also apparent from the results of the BE&E study. The low aptitude group in this study represents approximately 20-25 percent of the BE&E School population. If this group reliably averages 28 percent more training time using microfiche, the costs will be profound.

ATTITUDES

The posttraining interview was designed to solicit responses regarding operational factors, microfiche training modules, physical comfort, study habits, attitudes, and recommendations. In addition to answering direct questions, the subjects were encouraged to comment freely on any topic related to the experiment. There was no notable trend in the unsolicited remarks; however, comments made by two or more subjects are summarized and paraphrased as follows:

- . an index is needed at the beginning of each module
- . illustrations of test meter dials were illegible
- . the reader parts had to be cleaned frequently to maintain the quality of the projected image
- . the microfiche medium captured attention
- . the reader fan noise was a distraction
- . study habits were limited by the lack of reader portability
- . the programmed instruction questions and answers should be more spatially separated
- . the vertical presentation of the reader facilitated secondary tasks such as writing and performing calculations.

The subjective response of users to microfiche as a training medium is not unique to this investigation. Similar positive results have been documented in prior studies (Kottenstette, 1969; Grausnick, 1971; Gaddy, 1971; Keeler and Rizzo, 1976; Rizzo, 1977). It is reasonable to conclude from this evidence that minimal resistance may be expected in introducing microfiche as an instructional delivery system.

SECTION V

COST ANALYSES

The comparative cost analyses presented in this section reflect existing and hypothetical media configurations encompassing four BE&E training facilities--Orlando, Memphis, Great Lakes, and San Diego. While the feasibility of using microfiche for BE&E training was not the focus of the study, the cost analyses are presented to illustrate the efficiency of an alternative instructional delivery system.

Costs illustrated are limited to those directly related to the paper or microfiche medium, as opposed to total costs of training. This limitation necessitates numerous assumptions as well as caveats. These ground rules are described in terms of those applicable to all alternatives and those which are alternative-specific.

GENERAL ASSUMPTIONS

- 1. Total BE&E annual throughput, by rating, is based on CNET Report 1500.1121, for the period 30 September 1975 through 1 October 1976. Throughput is assumed to be 20,000 (rounded from 19,895) per year. The average number of modules used per trainee across all ratings is 16.
 - 2. The Planning Period is 10 years.
- 3. A discount rate of 10 percent was used to compute Present Cost of each alternative. The discount rate is the interest rate used in calculating the present value of expected yearly costs and benefits. It represents the accepted price of money or the interest rate currently obtainable on loanable funds. For example, the present value of \$100 payable in 5 years can be defined as the amount of money necessary to invest today in order to have \$100 in 5 years.
- 4. Costs illustrated are based on constant dollars; i.e., costs have not been adjusted for inflation. If it is anticipated that inflation will have a differential impact on the cost of the alternatives, then adjustments should be made when costing alternatives for future planning.
- 5. Existing supplies of instructional materials will be consumed prior to the beginning of the Planning Period.
- 6. The rate of consumption of instructional materials will vary as a function of differential handling and fiscal austerity. Therefore, costs across a range of consumption rates are illustrated. It is the normal practice of BE&E Schools to reuse instructional materials several times. However, the cost of using these materials only once is included, as this is a common mode in other Navy schools. This is not suggested as an alternative for BE&E administration, rather, it is illustrated to enable cost comparisons where individual trainees are permitted to keep their instructional materials.

- 7. The required ratio of test copies to throughput is 1:10. Test copies are expected to last 2 years.
- 8. A 10 percent backup of instructional materials and tests is required to compensate for loss or destruction.
- 9. Production costs of the original copy of instructional materials are equivalent across alternatives. The microfiche originals are second generation and are costed separately.
- 10. During the first year of the Planning Period, instructional materials will be produced in 6-month supplies to accommodate changes or refinements to content or printing. Subsequently, materials will be produced in sufficient quantity to last 1 year. The cost of updating materials across alternatives is assumed to be equivalent; however, it should be noted that the mechanics of updating offset copy and microfiche are different and may, in fact, incur differential costs. Paper updating involves retyping masters prior to reprinting, with interim changes published as errata sheets which are posted by the individual trainee. Microfiche updating involves retyping of masters as well as rephotographing. Substantial interim changes may require republishing microfiche more frequently as these changes cannot be made manually by the trainee.
- 11. Storage space required for paper modules and backup microfiche readers is equivalent.
- 12. All schools will operate in two equally manned 6-hour shifts/day, 5 days/week, 50 weeks/year.
- 13. The amount of home study is estimated to be 5 percent of total training time.
- 14. The attrition rates for trainees using microfiche and paper copy are assumed to be equivalent. However, if a portion of the trainee population has difficulty using microfiche, it may be reasonable to assume that the attrition rate for this group will be somewhat higher.

ALTERNATIVE A (Table 5)

This alternative reflects existing BE&E training using paper copy for all instruction and testing, subject to the general assumptions above. The current practice is to reuse instructional materials approximately 20 times.

ALTERNATIVE B (Table 6)

- 1. This alternative assumes that all BE&E instructional and testing materials have been republished as microfiche.
 - 2. No usable microfiche readers are on hand prior to the Planning Period.
- 3. A 10 percent backup of microfiche readers is required to compensate for those damaged or in maintenance. A 10 percent backup of projection lamps is also required to accommodate fluctuations in lamp life.

- 4. The Realist/Vantage III microfiche reader is used for illustration only and is not specifically endorsed for this use. Power consumption and lamp life are manufacturer's specifications.
 - 5. Hardware prices are GSA quantity purchase quotations.

ALTERNATIVE C (Table 7)

- 1. This alternative also assumes that BE&E training is accomplished using microfiche but with no adverse effects on training.
- 2. Microfiche readers are made available in the barracks for home study. The ratio of home study readers to average on board (AOB) is 1:3.

ALTERNATIVE D (Table 8)

- 1. This alternative considers using the Personalized Portable Micromedia Display System (PPMDS) as proposed by the Terminal Data Corporation. Each trainee is issued a portable reader which is used for classroom training, testing, and home study.
- 2. A major assumption of this alternative is that training time is not extended by using microfiche with the PPMDS reader.

DISCUSSION OF COST ANALYSES

Comparisons across alternatives may be made by examination of the Total Present Cost (tables 5, 6, 7, 8, and summary table 9). The subtotals correspond to differential rates of instructional material consumption. It is apparent that the cost of a microfiche-based instructional delivery system for BE&E training would be considerably greater than paper copy. The cost differential is greatly influenced by the additional training time required for 20 percent of the trainee population and additional time for all trainees due to denial of home study. If there are no effects of medium on training time, the cost of using microfiche would be at least twice that of paper copy.

The cost advantage of microfiche versus paper copy becomes a reality in situations where large quantities of instructional materials are expended. This is illustrated by comparing subtotals a. in tables 5, 6, 7, and 8, or line a. in table 9. This comparison is only valid, however, with the assumption that no portion of the trainee population is adversely affected by using microfiche.

These results suggest factors which must be addressed in considering the use of microfiche for onboard training. If the nature of onboard training is such that individuals study while not on watch, the personnel cost of training is essentially zero. Presumably, moderate increases in time to complete a course of instruction may be accommodated with minimal effect on readiness.

The cost of microfiche readers may be significantly reduced in the onboard training environment. The PPMDS readers being procured for this purpose are expected to cost approximately \$100 each. It is anticipated that these readers will be shared among trainees, thereby further reducing hardware costs.

Perhaps the most cogent consideration in the onboard training environment is space reduction--training time and hardware costs being secondary factors. Certainly, a large volume of paper training materials may be replaced by a handful of microfiche. However, whether or not the paper would be displaced by required microfiche readers should be subject for investigation in specific situations.

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TABLE 5. COST AMALYSIS OF BE&E TRAINING - ALTERNATIVE A (CURRENT PRACTICE USING PRINTED MODULES)

DESI	DESCRIPTION	S COST	USEFUL	-	2	3	4 YE	YEARS IN PLANNING PERIOD	NING PERIOD	7	80	6	10	4	PRESENT COST
rinti	Printing Costs + 10% Training Modules														
· o	a. Used 1 Time	264,000	1 yr	264,000	528,000	528,000	528,000	528,000	528,000	528,000	528,000	528,000	528,000		
á	b. Used 10 Times	26,400	ا بعر	26,400	52,800	52,800	52,800	52,800	52,800	52,800	52,800	52,800	52,800		
5	c. Used 15 Times	16,100	1 yr	16,100	32,200	32,200	32,200	32,200	32,200	32,200	32,200	32,200	32,200		
ė	d. Used 20 Times	13,200	T yr	13,200	26,400	26,400	26,400	26,400	26,400	26,400	26,400	26,400	26,400		
i	e. Used 25 Times	10,560	1 yr	10,560	21,120	21,120	21,120	21,120	21,120	21,120	21,120	21,120	21,120		
Tests		19,980	2 yrs			19,980		19,980		19,980		19,980			
TOTALC															
CIMES															
ri ri	a. Used 1 Time	283,980		264,000	528,000	547,980	528,000	547,980	528,000	547,980	528,000	547,980	528,000	ro On	\$3,486,979
ò	b. Used 10 Times	46,380		26,400	52,800	72,780	52,800	72,780	52,800	72,780	52,800	72,780	52,800	ъ.	410,286
Ü	Used 15 Times	36,080		16,100	32,200	52,180	32,200	52,180	32,200	52,180	32,200	52,180	32,200	ċ	276,910
d.	Used 20 Times	33,180		13,200	26,400	46,380	26,400	46,380	26,400	46,380	26,400	46,380	26,400	Ď,	239,358
ų,	e. Used 25 Times	30,540		10,560	21,120	41,100	21,120	41,100	21,120	41,100	21,120	41,100	21,120	ė.	205,173

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TABLE 6. COST ANALYSIS OF BE&E TRAINING - ALTERNATIVE B (MODULES REPUBLISHED AS MICROFICHE)

DESCRIPTION	INITIAL \$ COST	USEFUL	-	2	8	4 YE	YEARS IN PLANNING PERIOD	NING PERIOD	7	80	6	10	PRES	TOTAL PRESENT COST
Microfiche Readers/Ing	260,429	5 yrs						260,429						
Microfiche Readers/Test	26,026	5 yrs						26,026						
Projection Lamps		1000 hrs	111,02	31,067	31,067	31,067	31,067	111,02	31,067	31,067	31,067	31,067		
Additional Elect Power			12,609	12,609	12,609	12,609	12,609	12,609	12,609	12,609	12,609	12,609		
Microfiche Production														
Originals	281													
Copies														
a. Used 1 Time	37,720	ابدا	37,720	75,440	75,440	75,440	75,440	75,440	75,440	75,440	75,440	75,440		
b. Used 10 Times	3,772	ا بد	3,772	7,544	7,544	7,544	7,544	7,544	7,544	7,544	7,544	7,544		
c. Used 15 Times	2,516	l yr	2,516	5,032	5,032	5,032	5,032	5,032	5,032	5,032	5,032	5,032		
d. Used 20 Times	1,886	ابرا	1,886	3,772	3,772	3,772	3,772	3,772	3,772	3,772	3,772	3,772		
e. Used 25 Times	1,509	l yr	1,509	3,018	3,018	3,018	3,018	3,018	3,018	3,018	3,018	3,018		
Test Originals	175													
Test Copies	2,000	2 yrs			5,000		2,000		2,000		5,000			
Additional Ing Time/ Low Group			1,347,480	034,480 1,347,480 1,347,480 1,347,480 1,347,480 1,347,480 1,347,480 1,347,480 1,347,480	1,347,480	1,347,480	1,347,480	1,347,480	1,347,480	1,347,480	1,347,480	1,347,480		
Additional Ing Time/ Denial of Home Study			1,497,200	097,200 1,497,200 1,497,200 1,497,200 1,497,200 1,497,200 1,497,200 1,497,200 1,497,200 1,497,200	1,497,200	1,497,200	1,497,200	1,497,200	1,497,200	1,497,200	1,497,200	1,497,200		
TOTALS														
a. Used 1 Time	329,631		2,915,670	2,963,796	2,968,796	2,963,796	2,968,796	3,239,895	2,968,796	2,963,796	2,968,796	2,963,796	a. \$1	\$19,581,266
b. Used 10 Times	295,683		2,881,772	2,895,900	2,900,900	2,895,900	2,900,900	3,171,999	2,900,900	2,895,900	2,900,900	2,895,900	b.	19,141,720
c. Used 15 Times	294,427		2,880,516	2,893,388	2,898,388	2,893,388	2,898,388	3,169,487	2,898,388	2,893,388	2,898,388	2,893,388		19,125,456
d. Used 20 Times	293,797		2,879,886	2,892,128	2,897,128	2,892,128	2,897,128	3,168,227	2,897,128	2,892,128	2,897,128	2,892,128	d.	19,117,298
e. Used 25 Times	293,420		2,879,509	2,891,374	2,896,374	2,891,374	2,896,374	3,167,473	2,896,374	2,891,374	2,896,374	2,891,374	e.]	19,112,416

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TOTAL PRESENT COST 957,350 949,192 944,309 a. \$1,413,208 b. 115,500 47,604 11,970 75,440 3,018 45,092 43,832 43,078 7,544 5,032 3,772 10 11,970 120,500 28,090 75,440 5,032 3,772 3,018 52,604 50,092 48,832 48,078 5,000 11,970 28,090 7,544 5,032 3,772 115,500 47,604 45,092 43,832 3,018 43,078 28,090 11,970 7,544 5,032 3,772 3,018 120,500 52,604 50,092 48,832 5,000 48,078 YEARS IN PLANNING PERIOD 18,722 11,970 23,660 75,440 7,544 5,032 3,772 3,018 522,548 454,652 452,140 450,880 392,756 450,125 28,090 11,970 75,440 7,544 5,032 3,772 3,018 120,500 52,604 50,092 5,000 48,832 48,078 28,090 11,970 75,440 7,544 5,032 3,772 3,018 115,500 47,604 45,092 43,832 43,078 11,970 28,090 52,604 7,544 5,032 3,772 3,018 120,500 50,092 48,832 2,000 48,078 115,500 47,604 45,092 43,832 43,078 28,090 11,970 75,440 7,544 5,032 3,772 3,018 18,722 11,970 37,720 2,516 68,412 34,464 33,208 1,886 1,509 32,578 32,201 1000 hrs 5 yrs USEFUL 2 yrs * * * * * INTTIAL \$ COST 23,660 37,720 2,516 1,509 392,756 1,886 5,000 175 459,592 425,644 424,388 423,758 281 423,381 Microfiche Readers/Test Microfiche Readers/Ing Additional Elect Power Microfiche Production Originals b. Used 10 Times c. Used 15 Times d. Used 20 Times e. Used 25 Times b. Used 10 Times Used 15 Times Used 20 Times Used 25 Times a. Used 1 Time a. Used 1 Time Projection Lamps Test Originals DESCRIPTION Test Copies Copies j Ď,

TABLE 7. COST ANALYSIS OF BE&E TRAINING - ALTERNATIVE C (MODULES REPUBLISHED AS MICROFICHE - NO INCREASE IN TRAINING TIME)

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TABLE 8. COST ANALYSIS OF BE&E TRAINING - ALTERNATIVE D (MODULES REPUBLISHED AS MI ROFICHE - PPMDS)

DESCRIPTION	INITIAL	USEFUL					YEARS IN PLANNING PERIOD	ING PERIOD					TOTAL
	\$ 0057	LIFE	-	2	3	4	2	9	7	8	6	10	PRESENT COST
Microfiche Readers	278,000	5 yrs						278,000					
Projection Lamps		200 hrs	4,876	5,586	5,586	5,586	5,586	4,876	5,586	5,586	5,586	5,586	
Additional Elect Power			5,985	5,985	5,985	5,985	5,985	5,985	5,985	5,985	5,985	5,985	
Microfiche Production													
Originals	281												
Copies													
a. Used 1 Time	37,720	1 yr	37,720	75,440	75,440	75,440	75,440	75,440	75,440	75,440	75,440	75,440	
b. Used 10 Times	3,772	l yr	3,772	7,544	7,544	7,544	7,544	7,544	7,544	7,544	7,544	7,544	
c. Used 15 Times	2,516	l yr	2,516	5,032	5,032	5,032	5,032	5,032	5,032	5,032	5,032	5,032	
d. Used 20 Times	1,886	l yr	1,886	3,772	3,772	3,772	3,772	3,772	3,772	3,772	3,772	3,772	
e. Used 25 Times	1,509	l yr	1,509	3,018	3,018	3,018	3,018	3,018	3,018	3,018	3,018	3,018	
Test Originals	175												
Test Copies	000,3	2 yrs			2,000		5,000		5,000		9,000		
TOTALS													
a. Used 1 Time	321,176		48,581	110,78	92,011	87,011	92,011	364,301	92,011	110,78	92,011	87,011 a.	. \$1,022,344
b. Used 10 Times	287,228		14,633	19,115	24,115	19,115	24,115	296,405	24,115	19,115	24,115	19,115 b.	582,750
c. Used 15 Times	285,972		13,377	16,603	21,603	16,603	21,603	293,893	21,603	16,603	21,603	16,603 c.	. 556,486
d. Used 20 Times	285,342		12,747	15,343	20,343	15,343	20,343	292,633	20,343	15,343	20,343	15,343 d.	. 558,328
e. Used 25 Times	284,965		12,370	14,589	19,589	14,589	19,589	291,879	19,589	14,589	19,589	14,589 e.	. 553,446

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TABLE 9. SUMMARY - COST OF ALTERNATIVES

	*ALTERNATIVES					
TRAINING MATERIALS USED	А	В	С	D		
a. 1 Time	\$3,486,979	\$19,581,266	\$1,413,208	\$1,022,344		
b. 10 Times	410,286	19,141,720	973,614	582,750		
c. 15 Times	276,910	19,125,456	957,350	566,486		
d. 20 Times	239,358	19,117,298	949,192	558,328		
e. 25 Times	205,173	19,112,416	944,309	553,446		

^{*}A - Current practice using printed modules

B - Modules republished as microfiche

 $[\]ensuremath{\text{C}}$ - Modules republished as microfiche - no increase in training time

D - Modules republished as microfiche - PPMDS

SECTION VI

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of this study support findings of earlier research evaluating microfiche as an instructional medium. It appears that, for the majority of students found in a typical military technical training environment, the use of microfiche vice paper copy has no effect on learning. Trainees are able to effectively use the microfiche equipment with a minimum amount of instruction and, in general, express favorable attitudes toward microfiche.

There are two major considerations in using microfiche as the primary instructional medium in Navy schools. The most critical consideration is the makeup of the trainee population with respect to aptitude. There is evidence that lower aptitude individuals experience some difficulty in cognitively extracting and/or retaining information using fiche. As this difficulty increases training time, AOB or throughput suffers accordingly. While this effect may be translated into dollar costs, the total costs must reflect required end strength and, ultimately, fleet readiness.

A second important factor which must be examined in considering the use of microfiche for training is consumption of instructional materials. In environments where trainees are permitted to retain large quantities of materials, printing costs will be considerably greater than if materials are reused. In such situations, media costs may be significantly reduced by using microfiche. Cost estimates for this factor are relatively straightforward.

It is recommended that a thorough cost analysis be performed as the primary step in considering the feasibility of using microfiche for any specific training situation. The cost analyses illustrated in this study are examples and may not include all the factors relevant to a different training context.

Information currently available enables objective decision making regarding the use of microfiche for shore-based Navy schools. However, the onboard training environment offers more complex combinations and permutations of variables--some not readily quantifiable. For example, where space economy is mandatory, dollar costs may become insignificant. Where there is a liberal amount of time for training, adverse effects of the medium on training time may be insignificant.

It is recommended that the less tangible variables peculiar to the onboard (shipboard as well as onsite) environment be examined in detail to assess the total economic impact of training using the PPMDS/microfiche mode of instruction.

The planned replication of this study by TAEG using the PPMDS will give further insights reqarding the capabilities and limitations of this reader. However, it is recommended that the PPMDS be ultimately evaluated in shipboard use to examine factors which may be unique to this environment.

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APPENDIX A

BE&E CURRICULUM OUTLINE

BE&E CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Module 1

Electricity and the Electron Lesson I. Electron Movement II. III. Current Flow Measurement of Current IV.

٧. The Ammeter

Module 2

EMF from Chemical Action Lesson I. Magnetism II. Electromagnetic Induction III. AC Voltage IV.

The Uses of AC and DC ٧. VI. Measuring Voltage

Module 3

Characteristics of Resistance Lesson I. Resistors II. Resistor Values III. Ohmmeters IV.

Module 4

Measuring Current in a Series Circuit Lesson I. Voltage in a Series Circuit II. Using the Multimeter as a Voltmeter III.

Module 5

Voltage, Resistance, and Current Lesson I. The OHM's Law Formula II. III. Power IV. Internal Resistance Troubleshooting Series Circuits ٧.

Module 6

Rules for Voltage and Current Lesson I. Rules for Resistance and Power II. Variational Analysis III. IV. Troubleshooting Parallel Circuits

BE&E CURRICULUM OUTLINE (continued)

Module 7

Lesson I. Solving Complex Circuits
II. Voltage Reference
III. Voltage Dividers

Module 8

Lesson I. Electromagnetism
II. Inductors and Flux Density
III. Inducing Voltage
IV. Inductance and Induction

Module 9

Lesson I. Rise and Decay of Current and Voltage
II. LR Time Constant
III. Using Universal TC Chart
IV. Inductive Resistance
V. Relationship in Inductive Circuits
VI. Phase Relationships

Module 10

Lesson I. Transformer Construction
II. Transformer Theory and Operation
III. Turns and Voltage Ratio
IV. Power and Current
V. Transformer Efficiency
VI. Semiconductor Rectifiers

Module 11

Lesson I. The Capacitor
II. Theory of Capacitance
III. Total Capacitance
IV. RC Time Constant
V. Capacitive Reactance
VI. Phase and Power Relationships
VII. Capacitor Design Considerations

Module 12

Lesson I. Voltage and Impedance in AC Series Circuits
II. Vector Computations
III. Rectangular and Polar Notation
IV. Variational Analysis of Series RL Circuits
V. Frequency Discrimination in RL Circuits
VI. Series RC Circuits

BE&E CURRICULUM OUTLINE (continued)

Module 13

Lesson	Ι.	Solving RLC Circuits	
	II.	Resonant Frequency in Series Circuits	
	III.	Conditions of Series Resonance	
	TV	Expariments with Sories Pesonance	

Module 14

1 25522	1	Coluing for Organities in DI Donallal Cinquita
Lesson	1.	Solving for Quantities in RL Parallel Circuits
	II.	Variational Analysis of RL Parallel Circuits
	III.	Parallel RC and RLC AC Circuits
	IV.	Parallel Resonance
	٧.	Effective Resistance in Parallel RL Circuits
	VI.	Parallel Resonance Experiment

APPENDIX B

INSTRUCTIONS TO SUBJECTS

INSTRUCTIONS TO SUBJECTS

A decision has been made by the Navy to put certain instructional materials on microfiche film instead of the usual books and paper. The two major reasons for using microfiche are greatly reduced cost and storage space. It is estimated that the Navy can save millions of dollars annually by going to microfiche. A single microfiche film like you will be using can contain 98 pages of information, and a stack the size of a shoebox could contain over 200,000 pages of information.

The core of the Basic Electricity and Electronics curriculum consists of 14 modules of instruction. Throughout these modules are sections called programmed instruction. In these sections you will study a segment of information followed by a short, self-administered quiz. You will be instructed to either continue on to the next section or review the previous section, depending on how well you do in the quiz. Page numbers of the modules have been replaced with microfiche page designators, consisting of a letter and a number. The instructor will now show you a sample microfiche which has examples of indexing instructions using this system.

This microfiche is a photographic miniature of 96 printed pages. There are 14 columns of pages, numbered 1 through 14, left to right. There are seven rows of pages, lettered A through G, top to bottom. Each page has a letter and number designator. For example, page B3 would be the second row down and the third column across.

In order to use the microfiche film, a special microfiche reader, like the one in front of you, is required. To view the microfiche, the reader is used to magnify the microfiche pages and project them onto the viewing screen. The instructor will point out the main parts of the reader in front of you--the viewing screen, the lens, the microfiche carrier, and the index.

To load the microfiche into the reader, pull the carrier toward you until the upper glass opens and the carrier stops. The glass plates will remain open for microfiche loading. Hold the microfiche in front of you so the title may be read. Insert the microfiche face down between the glass plates with the title strip closest to you. Place the microfiche all the way to the back right-hand side of the carrier. Push the carrier in to close the upper glass.

The index card below and to the left of the carrier contains 98 spaces which correspond to the microfiche pages. To find a designated microfiche page, move the reference pointer attached to the carrier to the desired space on the index card. This will approximately center the desired microfiche page. Using the index pointer, find page A3.

A sharp clear image is achieved by applying a slight downward pressure while turning the lens focus ring. The reader may require refocusing periodically. Take time, now, to practice loading, unloading, and focusing the first practice microfiche.

There are 96 exposed pages on each microfiche. Each page has a letter and number designator at the top and either the word "END" or some instructions, such as "Go to B3" near the center of the page. When the instructor tells you to begin, load the sample microfiche, find page A3, focus, and begin following the instructions. The last instruction on the microfiche will bring you to a page marked "END." Then load the next sample microfiche, find page A3, focus, and begin following the instructions. The instructor will answer any questions before you begin.

The purpose of this instruction was to familiarize you with the microfiche indexing system and the reader that you will be using throughout the Basic Electricity and Electronics curriculum. The instructor will now show you a sample of Module I in booklet and microfiche formats. You will notice that the only difference between the two is the page numbering system. The instructor will answer any questions at this time.

APPENDIX C
BE&E EXIT INTERVIEW

BE&E EXIT INTERVIEW

Name				
Age				
Wear	glasses	contacts	for school	work?

The purpose of this interview is to discuss your experience and opinions concerning the use of microfiche in the BE&E course. This information will remain strictly confidential and will not become part of your military records.

OPERATIONAL FACTORS Did you have any problems in selecting the correct microfiche module from the storage folder? Yes ____ No ___ Explain ____ 2. Did you have any problems in loading or unloading microfiche? Yes No Explain Did you have any problems locating the correct microfiche pages using the reader index? Yes ____ No ___ Explain ____ 4. Did you have any problems in focusing the microfiche reader lens? Yes No Explain 5. Did you experience any microfiche reader equipment failures? Yes No ____ Explain ____

MICROFICHE TRAINING MODULES

6. Was the leg	ibility of the	microfiche tex	t adequate? Ye	S
NoExplai	n			
7. Was the leg	ibility of the	microfiche ill	ustrations adequ	ate? Yes
No	Explain			
8. Have you ev	er used program	med instruction	n before? Yes _	No
9. How often d	id you use the	narrative sect	ions of the modu	les?
NeverSeld	omOccas	ionally	Frequently	Always
10. How often d	id you use the	programmed ins	truction section	s of the
modules? Never	Seldom _	Occasiona	ally Freq	uently
Always				
11. How often d	id you use the	summary section	ns of the module	s? Never
SeldomO	ccasionally	Frequently	Always	
12. How often d	id you use the	enrichment mate	erials for the mo	odules?
Never Sel				

13. List the sequence in which you typically used the narrative, programme
instruction, summary, and enrichment materials.
PHYSICAL COMFORT
14. How much eyestrain did you experience using microfiche compared to printed paper? More Less Same Explain
15. How much body fatigue did you experience using microfiche compared to printed paper? More Less Same Explain
16. Did you experience any problems shifting your attention from the microfiche reader to equipment or answer sheets? Yes No
17. Were there any more distractions using micofiche compared to printed paper? Yes No Explain

STUDY HABITS

18. Were you able to study just as long at one sitting using microfich		
compared to books? Yes No Explain		
19. Would you have studied differently using the printed modules? Yes		
No Explain		
20. Were there any inconveniences using microfiche that you would not		
have experienced using the printed modules? Yes No Expla-		
ATTITUDES		
21. Have you used any kind of microfilm before? Yes No		
Explain		
22. What was your attitude toward using microfiche when you began the		
BE&E course? Positive Negative No Opinion		

23. Did your attitude toward using microfiche change after you had
worked with it for awhile? More Positive More Negative
No Change
24. Would you prefer to use microfiche or books in a similar course
using programmed instruction? Microfiche Books No
Preference
RECOMMENDATIONS
25. What recommendations would you make for improving programmed instruc-
tion on microfiche?
OTHER COMMENTS
26. Is there anything else you would like to comment on that I haven't
asked you about?

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